

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 18, 2015

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Roy Neimeyer Earns Governor's State Employee Award of Distinction

Northeast District Maintenance Supervisor Roy Neimeyer was selected as the 2014 State Employee Award of Distinction winner in the Leadership category. He was recognized for the accomplishment at a special ceremony at the Northeast District Office on June 16, 2015. Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger presented the Governor's Award to Roy in the presence of his coworkers and family.



Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger presents the State Employee Award of Distinction to Northeast District Maintenance Supervisor Roy Neimeyer. The award was a surprise to Roy who did not know he had been nominated. See more about the presentation on the Northeast District page of Connections.

Neimeyer was nominated by Northeast District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Jennifer Hinson. She wrote: *Roy has been recognized numerous times by the general public, elected officials and his peers for his outstanding display of pride as a state employee, helpfulness, leadership and encouragement. In the recent past, Roy received a Noteworthy Award by MoDOT for his actions to help stranded motorists on U.S. 61 who had a health issue. Most recently, however, and the reason for this nomination, Roy was sent a personal letter from the Mayor of Clarksville and the Emergency Management Office, on behalf of the entire city, for his leadership and helpfulness to provide traffic control and clean up the roads quickly in their community during and after significant flooding. In the letter, the Mayor, emergency management team and the Board of Alderman expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for his assistance, citing that "Without the assistance of a person like you, the devastation to the City in*

such an emergency situation would be far greater and likely impossible to survive. Words cannot fully convey the gratitude of Clarksville...."

Roy's leadership skills prompted him to take quick action as the Mississippi River began to consume roads, actual streets, within the City of Clarksville in spring 2014. Not only did he work directly with their emergency management office and their volunteers, he provided leadership to the group, working with them on a plan to ensure all workers and drivers in the community were safe. Roy went above and beyond to check barricades and water levels as he was driving by on his own time. He took many phone calls off hours, as well as made many, just to ensure everything was still in place and it was safe.

While Roy could not have physically accomplished this major task alone, as a supervisor, he has engaged his employees, serving as a role model to do not just what needs to be done, but to do it right and with care, all with safety and outstanding customer service in the forefront of his leadership.

While Roy has many skills that make him a terrific maintenance supervisor, his morals and values contribute to his success. While raising a family that includes a wife and three daughters who are all very active in sports, the community and their church, Roy has found time to attend MoDOT public meetings on his own time, not serving as a representative of MoDOT, but there because he cares about his community and neighbors.

Becky Allmeroth Named MoDOT's New State Maintenance Engineer

by Linda Wilson-Horn

St. Louis District Maintenance and Traffic Operations Engineer Becky Allmeroth has been named MoDOT's state maintenance engineer following the retirement of Beth Wright. Allmeroth is a 1995 graduate of the University of Missouri at Rolla. She has been with the Missouri Department of Transportation for the past 19 years. She started her career in the former District 9 (Willow Springs) as a Highway Designer. In 1996, she transferred to the St. Louis District and has worked in Planning, Federal Aid and Traffic.

For the past six years, Allmeroth has served as the Maintenance and Traffic Operations Engineer for the St. Louis Region of MoDOT. This has given her the opportunity to chase her passion of developing new leaders within MoDOT. She has been working with her team to develop a Maintenance Leadership Academy over the past few years to prepare Maintenance for upcoming retirements. That Academy has gone statewide, and she has had the opportunity to travel the state to help train mentors and instructors.

"In my new role, I am most excited about working on the Maintenance Management System," said Allmeroth. "With the upcoming implementation of the Maintenance 325 plans, we have got to get a tool in the hands of our maintenance supervisors that helps them better plan, track and improve their work processes while allowing them to get out in the field more. I know this tool will make their jobs easier, and I am excited to get it moving."

The changes coming with the Maintenance 325 plan will be Allmeroth's biggest challenge. "We have some outstanding crews that give everything they have, on a daily basis, to keep our roads and roadsides looking amazing. Telling the crew they have to decrease their level of service is going to be difficult on all of us," said Allmeroth. "It is going to be challenging, but I have already seen some great ideas coming out of the Maintenance 325 teams."

Allmeroth stays very busy during her time away from MoDOT. Her and her husband Anthony are the parents of three boys. She is currently serving as the Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 442 and as a Den Leader for Den 9 of Pack 442. She is very active with the Four Rivers Area Swim Team, the Union Squids Swim Team and at First Christian Church – Washington. In addition, she volunteers her time to the Impact Student Ministries, the Union High School Band Boosters, the Ninos de Mexico ministries, Autism Advocacy and the Adopt a Highway. She enjoys going to concerts, running, and watching her boys swim, play soccer and march in the band.



New State Maintenance Engineer Becky Allmeroth is most excited about working on the Maintenance Management System.

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What you get by achieving your goals
is not as important as what you
become by achieving your goals.

Henry David Thoreau

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

New Back 2 Basics Safety Video Available – Take a Look!

by Tammy Wallace

Those of us who do not work in maintenance might think we have an idea what our crews encounter when working on a rural road or busy interstate. But watching the latest Back 2 Basics safety video on mobile operations will give you a new appreciation for what those employees do every day and why focusing on safety is so important.

The latest installment in the Back 2 Basics safety video series walks through the process of mobile operations safety. The video highlights safety practices beginning with the morning safety discussion and risk-based assessment review through equipment inspections and working on the roadway.

For our maintenance employees, these safety videos are just one of many tools to help keep safety in the forefront of the work they do every day.

Supervisors are asked to share the video with their maintenance work units before heading out to tackle a moving operation. It's a good way to get the safety discussion started.

Back 2 Basics Video Production - A Team Effort

Employee Development Specialist Brandon Anderson is the driving force behind the Back 2 Basics safety video series. Working with the Back 2 Basics team, safety focus team and safety and health managers, video topics are



The newest Back 2 Basics safety video features the St. Louis District maintenance crews safely performing moving operations. Producing the videos is a team effort involving many employees.

filming the video footage,” said Anderson. “All of these people, and particularly the field personnel and safety and health managers, give a lot of time to making sure we’re getting it right.”

When all the video pieces are filmed, Anderson edits the video to its final format. Senior Multimedia Services Specialist Steve Bushko also lends assistance with the final editing process. Then it’s ready for one final review by the teams and safety managers for approval before launching.

“I’m so grateful to so many people for their involvement in this process,” said Anderson. “These videos are a great discussion starter for the crews to help talk about safety. At the end of the day, it’s all about the bottom line: everyone going home safe. If these videos have helped that happen in any way, it’s more than worth the work it takes pulling it all together.”

The latest video has been added to the comprehensive safety site and can be viewed here – [Mobile Operations Safety](#).

determined to coincide with seasonal operations. Once the topics are set, Brandon develops the list of safety topics to highlight in the video with input from the safety and health managers and team members to ensure the most critical safety processes are included.

Once everything looks good on paper, field personnel are enlisted to be the voices and faces of the video. For this particular video, filming took place in the St. Louis District. Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Burditt narrates and guides viewers through the mobile operations process. As the video ends, you see the list of all the teams and individuals involved in making the video.

“It’s a total team effort putting everything together to get ready for

Team Talk - Getting People Safely Where They Want to Go

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! There are many things that bring us joy in life such as family and friends or a hobby you are passionate about. My question to you today is, “what in your work life brings you joy?”

The author and playwright George Bernard Shaw (think Pygmalion, which morphed into My Fair Lady) said, “the true joy of life is being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one.” I’m not sure about you, but that makes me feel kind of noble; that I could spend my life on something mighty.



A few weeks ago I got to do opening remarks at a safety conference in Columbia, Missouri where the head coach for the Mizzou wrestling team was the motivational speaker. He told a story about a cancer hospital where no matter who you speak with, if you ask them what they do, they will tell you, “I cure cancer.” It doesn’t matter if you ask the janitor, cafeteria cook, nurse or doctor; each of them will tell you, “I cure cancer.”

That declaration sends an incredibly powerful message to the people who receive treatment there. Everyone is working to get you healthy. But it also sends a powerful message to everyone who works there. Every employee is mission critical. Every employee knows their job is essential to the main goal of the facility. Every person matters.

Hearing that story made me wonder what we at MoDOT would say we do if we were talking not about the job for which we were hired, but the purpose that job promotes. I talked about it with employee groups I’ve spoken to recently. I pondered it as I drove to the places my purpose-driven life is taking me. Sally Oxenhandler (Central District) had an idea very similar to one that came to me. Matt Davis (HR) had a suggestion, and I modified it a little. In the end, this is what spoke to me:

I get people safely where they want to go.

I am proud that as a team we support the traveling public and are always focused on making that travel safe. It is a purpose that is vital to the everyday lives of millions of people. Seeing us working as a team to make it happen brings me both joy and satisfaction.

I don’t do the nuts-and-bolts things that ensure people can get from Point A to Point B. In the cancer hospital scenario, I’m not the doctor. But I do have the extraordinary privilege of being, for a few months, your director. I am living the dream of serving Team MoDOT as we get people safely where they want to go.

When Roads are Closed, Turn Around - Don't Drown

With more than 30 roads closed across the state and heavy rains predicted over the next few days, here are some safe driving tips that can help avoid delays and unsafe conditions during rainy weather.

Safe Driving Tips

- Turn on your headlights when windshield wipers are needed. It's the law.
- Slow down, use caution and don't use cruise control when driving in rain to avoid skidding and hydroplaning.
- Leave plenty of following distance behind the vehicle in front of yours.
- Never move or drive around barricades placed on roadways due to high water. Barricades are a warning designed to protect you from an unsafe condition. You can put yourself at serious risk if you proceed into a flooded section of road.
- If a road is closed, find another route.
- Do NOT drive into high water. Stop and turn around. Notify local police, the sheriff or the Missouri State Highway Patrol.
- "Turn Around - Don't Drown" as highways become impassable.

MoDOT crews will open roads after the water recedes and routes are cleared for safe travel. For more information, visit <http://www.modot.org/> or contact the MoDOT Customer Service Center at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-275-6636).



June Retirements

Terry A. Summers – KC – 18 years
Nelson Jordan – KC – 9 years
George W. Parker – KC – 13 years
Mark A. Durham – KC – 33 years
Ray A. Mercer – KC – 24 years
Edward R. Vaughn – KC – 29 years

Kenneth J. Walby – KC – 24 years
William K. Miller – SL – 11 years
Monty B. Hawks – SW – 21 years
Dewayne D. Ligons – SE – 28 years
Michael W. Hyslop – SE – 25 years

Paul J. Todey – CO – 22 years
Wilma J. Degraffenreid – CO – 26 years
Sheila A. Otto – CO – 7 years
Kathy J. Hatfield – CO – 15 years
Elizabeth A. Wright – CO – 30 years

In Memoriam

Donald Willingham
former D3 – May 18
Stephen Hague
CO – May 25
Roy Lilley
CO – May 26

Glen Creach
former D4 – May 27
Frank Kemp
former D10 – May 28
Ralph J Marquart
former D6 – May 30

Joe Price
former D8 – June 5
John Blackwell
former D2 – June 9
Roger Sullenger
former D4 – June 10

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Comments & Suggestions

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Employee Recognition Day at the Capitol

by Patrick Wood



A popular booth at the event was the Amtrak raffle. Participants signed up for a chance to receive two round trip tickets for one on the St. Louis/Kansas City corridor.

Missouri's annual State Employee Recognition Week took place last week, which included a special event held on the Capitol lawn in Jefferson City on Thursday June 11.

Volunteers from Central District and Central Office helped celebrate state employees offering free maps, educating attendees about proper child safety seat use and a raffle for two round trip tickets for one on Amtrak along the St. Louis and Kansas City corridor.

Various other state agencies and organizations also had informational tents set up on the Capitol lawn.

See all photos of the event here - [Capitol Event](#).

Children to Work Day

A great time was had by all when the Central Office and Central District teamed up for the Children to Work Day event June 4.

From the operation egg drop to the tower building, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It wouldn't be surprising if some of these kids follow in their parent's footsteps and choose a career with MoDOT.

See all the photos here – [Children to Work](#).

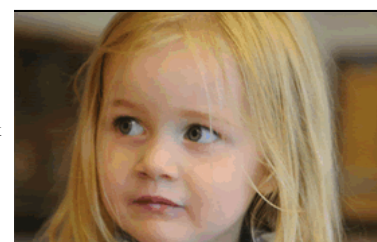


Central Office Happenings

Help Drive Out Hunger It's Not Too Late to Donate!

You still have time to donate to MoDOT's Second Annual Food Drive. During the month of June, MoDOT is partnering with local food banks to donate supplies. Central Office and Central District are partnering with The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. This food bank provides assistance to soup kitchens, emergency food pantries, shelters for the abused and homeless, low-income children and senior citizens.

For this information and more, please visit the food bank website -



<http://sharefoodbringhope.org/aboutus>.

Collection boxes are located in the break rooms at all Central Office buildings and at the Central District office through the end of June.

Please give generously.



New Videos in Mee Zone Library

Two new event videos have been added to the MEE Zone Video Library - Asthma and Stress - [Video Library](#).

If you have any recommendations for future MEE Zone events contact Amanda Woody – Amanda.woody@modot.mo.gov or 573.526.5617.

Deals and Discounts

Six Flags

Be sure to check out the awesome deal that Six Flags is holding for state employees. Through June 28, tickets are only \$28.99 plus tax, a savings of \$31 per ticket. You can purchase tickets until June 26 by visiting www.sixflags.com/stlouis and entering MOSTATE in the promo code box at the top right.

SKECHERS Friends and Family Days

June 24 - June 30

Shop online at www.skechers.com using Promo Code SKBBF215A at checkout to receive 30 percent off your purchase. Or, print this flier – [SKECHERS DISCOUNT](#) and shop at any SKECHERS retail stores nationwide or mention Retail Code 3F. To find a SKECHERS retail store near you click here – [store locations](#).



Missouri State Employee Blood Drives

St. Louis Cardinals Drive

June 19 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral

June 23 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Truman Building - 4th Floor Auditorium

Join the St. Louis Cardinal's and the American Red Cross mission to help save lives. Whether it's on or off the field, you can make a difference by giving blood. In the hour it takes to donate blood, you can help save the lives of multiple patients in your community and across the county. Step Up to the Plate and be a lifesaving HERO!

All presenting donors will receive a complimentary St. Louis Cardinal's t-shirt, while supplies last. Pizza will also be available for donors after their donation.

Summer Drive

June 22 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Governor's Office Building - Conference Room 450

200 Madison St., Jefferson City

Pizza available after donation.

How You Can Sign Up To Donate for All Blood Drives

To make an appointment please visit redcrossblood.org – Sponsor Keyword: MoState.

Eligibility Questions

For eligibility questions, call the Red Cross at (866) 236-3276 or visit the website.

Prepare Yourself for Your Donation

Following a few recommendations before, during and after your blood donation, can help you make your donation experience as safe, successful and pleasant as possible - [Recommendations](#).

Remember, you are eligible to donate blood every 56 days!

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

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Employee Recognition and Safety Days

Statewide Employee Recognition Week coincided with Northwest District Safety Days this year. A special safety days event was held in each maintenance superintendent's area as well as a day for special crews and the district office personnel. Maintenance personnel and others who may be first responders to incidents were offered Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) training on traffic incident management.

District office personnel had the opportunity to hear from Missouri One Call, Audits and Investigations regarding fraud, waste and abuse, and test their skills using a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire.

All groups were treated to Bill's BS and BBQ, followed by distribution of safety awards and a chat with district leadership.



Senior Safety Officer Lee Bearce (shown above right in blue) and Maintenance Crew Leader Bryce Anderson led field personnel through a section of the SHRP2 training at the South St. Joseph complex.



Each SHRP2 participant was given a training manual. Here employees are looking at the classifications to call tow truck drivers to an incident scene.



Interim Director Roberta Broeker chatted with employees at the events held at Trenton and Chillicothe.



Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughey held an open question and answer session with employees at the Safety Days events.



District Engineer Don Wichern presented the items each employee had chosen for their safety award.



Senior Safety Officer Lee Bearce, Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen and Design Intern Seth Heronemus tested their skills at extinguishing a small fire.



Bill, from Bill's BS and BBQ, made sure the employees had plenty of good food for Safety Days.

Other Employee Recognition Activities



Several employees joined in via video conference for MEE Zone Monday to hear Derrick Tennant's humorous and positive outlook on life.



Highway Designer Josshe Palm, Traffic Intern Michelle Anderson, Senior Financial Services Technician Melanie Noel and Senior Financial Services Specialist Judy Magruder dressed in their 80s best for Throwback Thursday.



Who Are You Rootin' For Friday brought out a lot of Royals' gear and a few stray Cardinals fans at the district office.

For more info

Marcia Johnson

Comments & Suggestions

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A Surprise Party for Roy Niemeyer - Award of Distinction

Fifteen months following the announcement that Roy Niemeyer, Bowling Green maintenance supervisor, was the recipient of the 2014 State Employee Award of Distinction in the Leadership Category, he finally received his award. And it was a surprise!

"You got me," Roy said in his polite drawl, as his supervisors Jennifer Hinson and Heath Otte brought him around the corner of his building, and he saw his co-workers from Bowling Green and Elsberry gathered, as well as Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and district leadership. Then he came inside and smiled as he saw his wife and three daughters. "You kept a secret!" he said to his youngest daughter, Megan, as he hugged her.



There had been several attempts to hold the statewide recognition event at the Capitol in Jefferson City, with Governor Jay Nixon presenting the award. After many postponements, the actual ceremony was held on a day when Roy could not attend due to a family commitment, so the district decided he had waited long enough and chose to surprise him early in the morning of June 16. Several people, including his family, were in on the secret, and there were challenges keeping Roy from the building while everyone set up for the event. In the end, however, all efforts were worth it to see the happiness in Roy's face.

Roy was recognized for his leadership during flooding in the City of Clarksville in the spring of 2014. Yet, as Ed and Paula both iterated, because Roy has said it many times, it was a team effort.

Roy is pictured here with his wife, Tina, and daughters Megan, Lauren, and Kimberly.

More New Summer Faces

Over the summer, there will be new faces around the district. The Northeast District has six interns joining us for the next few months. We wanted to take a moment and feature these individuals over the next few weeks. This week's two featured interns are Brandon Colbert and Luke Still.

Brandon Colbert



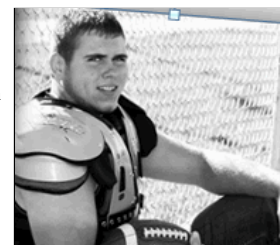
Brandon is returning for his second summer with MoDOT and will be working in Construction in Troy. He is originally from Troy, Missouri. He is a senior at University of Missouri - Columbia studying Civil Engineering. He hopes to expand his knowledge and experience in engineering during his time at MoDOT.

Brandon played Mizzou football for two years and enjoys weightlifting, hunting, sand volleyball and being on the lake.

Lukas Still

Lukas is an intern at the Shelbina maintenance facility. He is originally from Macon, Missouri. Lukas is studying Heavy Equipment Operations at Linn Tech, the State Technical College of Missouri. He hopes that his time at MoDOT will help him gain experience in a new work environment, as well as experience with new equipment.

In his free time, Lukas enjoys playing football.





Around the District...



Eleven new employees and interns participated in Gear Up training held at the district office last week.



District Engineer Paula Gough served as a panelist at a meeting recently held in Warrenton to discuss I-70.



While Missouri Route 79 drivers in the Clarksville area are grateful the highway is considered a primary road and that several bridges will be replaced over the next several years, they are concerned for the vitality of their small town of less than 500 people during these several month-long road closures. Brian Haeffner, area engineer, addresses the crowd of almost 40 people at the Clarksville Visitor's Center during a public information meeting this week.



Ed Hassinger was in the Northeast District on June 16. While here, he took the opportunity to visit some deteriorating bridges in the area. He is pictured here with Paula Gough at the Champ Clark Bridge near Louisiana, Missouri.

For more info

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MODOT KC District Engineer Receives Navy Promotion

Missouri Department of Transportation Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec serves both his state and country and recently received national recognition with a promotion from the U.S. Navy. Niec was only one of only nine Civil Engineer Corps officers selected from across the country to receive a promotion from lieutenant commander to commander this year, effective May 1.

"Throughout your career you have seen, experienced and solved a vast array of issues. Now is the time to draw upon those experiences to lead the Civil Engineer Corps into the future. One of the most important duties you will have is to mentor the other officers placed in your care and to ensure the success of the Corps. Your knowledge and experience is our most valuable asset," said P.C. Brown, rear admiral, CEC, U.S. Navy, in a letter to Niec.

Niec has served in the U.S. Navy as both enlisted and as an officer. As commander he is currently assigned to Command Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ), headquartered in Yokosuka, Japan. He has mobilized twice in support of the global war on terrorism, in March of 2003 and again in July of 2009, in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and a Fleet Marine Force Officer. His personal decorations include three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. During his naval career he has traveled the world visiting more than two dozen countries on five continents.

Niec began his career with MoDOT in 1991 as a construction inspector in the St. Louis District. After multiple promotions, in June 2011, he was transferred to the Kansas City Area District as the district engineer where he currently works.

Niec attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1991. He is a graduate of U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida. He attended William Woods University and earned a Master's in Business Administration in 2008. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri.



Chief Staff Officer Captain Jeffry Gumaer performed part of the pinning ceremony for District Engineer Dan Niec's promotion to commander in the Navy recently at the naval operations support center in Minneapolis, Mn. More than 100 members of Niec's unit attended the ceremony.

MoDOT Takes Media on Exclusive, Hard Hat Tour of Old Bridge Slated for Removal

On Friday, June 12, MoDOT moved traffic to the newly completed section of Manchester Bridge over Interstate 70. The old bridge, built in the late 1950s and among the earliest pieces of interstate construction in western Missouri, has passed its useful life. Because of the unique construction process, traffic on I-70 has met with limited disruption as the new structure gracefully appeared next to existing lanes. Local media had the prime opportunity to tour an older, decaying bridge still intact before crews dismantle it.

With more than 500 bridges in Missouri in critical condition, and no funding for replacement in sight, many bridges like Manchester may be faced with complete closure.

The Kansas City team took local TV, radio and print journalists on an exclusive hard-hat tour of the rough underside of a bridge at the end of its service. This is one of the last remaining large bridge projects funded for Kansas City in the near future and a unique opportunity to witness what usually only MoDOT bridge inspectors see. Watch news coverage of this tour from [Fox 4](#) and [KCTV 5](#).

Learn more about this project on [MoDOT Kansas City's website](#).



Kansas City Team Enjoys Week Filled with Fun, Food

The annual employee appreciation week always offers new opportunities for fun. This year was no exception!

We kicked off the week with our first annual competitive speed-walking competition! Transportation Planning Designer Juan Yin won first place in the women's division and Highway Designer Nicholas Lewandowski won first place in the men's division.

On Wednesday, employees from around the district brought in some good food, played games and had fun at the KC District picnic.

To wrap up the week, and in honor of the 30th anniversary of the 1985 I-70 World Series between the KC Royals and STL Cardinals, many employees showed their support for their favorite team in baseball apparel. At lunch, employees grabbed lunch from the EAF and watched the infamous game 6 of the 1985 game World Series or played wiffle ball.

THANK YOU to all our employees and the amazing work you do every day!



For more info

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We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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MoDOT Workers Recall Crash in Video

Distracted driving is dangerous, especially in work zones. Motorists who drive distracted increase their chances of being involved in a crash. These types of crashes can often result in a serious injury or fatality and expensive property damage.

On May 27, four MoDOT workers were victims of a crash while driving on U.S. Route 50 in Moniteau County. The four were drivers and operators involved in a striping operation, a slow-moving mobile work zone. During this crash, two trucks in the striping train were struck by a distracted motorist's vehicle.



Signing and Striping Supervisor Brandon Schreimann, Seasonal Maintenance Worker Joshua Winemiller and Senior Maintenance Workers Justin Kumberg and Allan Haslag tell their May 27 crash story in a brief video designed to ask motorists to pay attention and avoid distracted driving. The video can be found at <http://youtu.be/fKaWWyJSBVM> or you can watch the video in the frame above.

Fortunately for everyone involved, no one suffered any major injuries. The accident did, however, result in an estimated \$35,000 in property damage to MoDOT trucks.

"Everyone was very lucky," said Schreimann. "It could have been much worse. The car involved in the crash was very small. The driver could have easily got sucked up under the back end of the striper if the car would have hit us square. We had major damage to the striper carriage. It could potentially put the striper out of service for several months."

"Sadly, too many of our employees can tell crash stories similar to the one these workers have shared," said MoDOT Central District Engineer David Silvester. "Everyone involved was very fortunate they walked away from the crash. Our ultimate goal for sharing these stories is to educate motorists about the dangers of distracted driving. We want to ensure that our workers never have to experience another crash due to distracted driving."

MoDOT workers are not the only ones who are at risk due to distracted driving in work zones. Between 2010 and 2014, 53 people were killed and 3,347 people were injured in Missouri work zones. The top five contributing circumstances for work zone crashes in 2014 were following too closely, inattention, improper lane use or changing lanes, failure to yield, and driving too fast for conditions – in that order.

These workers hope their story will save lives by encouraging drivers to pay attention and slow down, especially when encountering highway work zones.

"There are many distractions in a vehicle when a person is driving in this day and age," said Kumberg. "Radio, cell phones, tablets, a sandwich, makeup are all dangerous when they take your attention off of the highway. Please pay attention to the road and drive safe in work zones. People's lives are at stake."

2015 Take Your Child to Work Day Photos



Download Photos of Your Child From Take Your Child to Work Day

One hundred and twenty nine kids participated in Central Office and Central District's annual Take Your Child to Work Day!

The kids and their parents and grandparents participated in a variety of activities during the day, including: an egg drop competition, a structure building competition, a tour of the MoDOT labs and an interactive look at MoDOT's big trucks, striping operations and fun archaeology dig.

Full resolution photos of this event can be found on Flickr at <http://bit.ly/1Ldoe2Q>. See if you can find yourself or your children in the pictures and feel free to download as many as you wish!

Congrats to I-70 Design Build Team!



Please join us in congratulating the following individuals selected to be a part of the I-70 Design Build Team:

Tim Ackert, Senior Construction Inspector
(Columbia Project Office)

Jamie Johnson, Construction Inspector
(Columbia Project Office)

Danny Roeger - Intermediate Construction
Inspector (Camdenton Project Office)

Director Sends Thank You to Linn & Drake

Ron Welker, Director of the State of Missouri's Emergency Management Agency, sent a letter of thanks to the staff of the Linn and Drake maintenance facilities for participating in the Gasconade County Reception, Care and Decontamination Center (RCDC) exercise held on May 21.



In an excerpt from the letter Welker wrote:

The successful demonstration of an RCDC cannot be accomplished without the efforts of a myriad of groups, including state agencies, local government, and emergency responders, the American Red Cross and other volunteers. Once again, our team has proven that we are ready to respond to a potential incident at the Callaway Energy Center Nuclear Power Plant.

The full letter can be found in the photo to the right.

Missouri Department of Transportation
Attention: Chris Engelbrecht
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Engelbrecht,

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you and your staff from the Linn and Drake offices for participating in the Gasconade County Reception, Care and Decontamination Center (RCDC) exercise held on May 21, 2015. The successful demonstration of an RCDC cannot be accomplished without the efforts of a myriad of groups, including state agencies, local government and emergency responders, the American Red Cross and other volunteers. Once again, our team has proven that we are ready to respond to a potential incident at the Callaway Energy Center Nuclear Power Plant.

My staff will be in contact soon to schedule a hot wash of the exercise that will capture your comments and "lessons learned" so that we may improve our plans and procedures. If you have questions please contact Jeff Rackers at 573-526-9257. Again, thank you for efforts.

Sincerely,

Ron Walker
Ron Walker
Director

RWms

Around the District

Seven Central District teams participated in the annual Tricycle Cup during a lunch break for State Employee Recognition Week.

The 2015 winners of the cup were Materials Inspector Stephen Amburn and Senior Materials Inspector Todd Siebeneck (top picture).

Also pictured (from left to right) are Senior Financial Services Technician Staci Pickett and Traffic Intern Taylor Hudson.

Congrats to the winners and everyone who competed.



For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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St. Louis
District

Women's Conference Focused on Career Enhancement and Personal Growth

by Shaunda White

More than 120 female employees in the St. Louis district gained insights on career enhancement and personal growth through a professional training development conference for women last week. The district's first *MoDOT Women: Leadership, Service & Grace* conference educated attendees who heard panel members and a keynote speaker share their experiences and strategies for workplace success.

The leadership team of St. Louis created the conference as an opportunity for female employees to network with female coworkers to share career inspirations and tips on balancing life outside of work. The conference also focused on how to enhance leadership styles and both personal and professional growth.

Interim MoDOT Director Roberta Broeker was the keynote speaker for the conference.

"The biggest thing we have control over is our attitude. Never succumb to the 'I am where I am and I don't have choices' attitude. We always have choices."



MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker gives words of encouragement to the attendees at the women's conference in the St. Louis district June 9.

appreciated hearing the women on the panel and Roberta speak about their work and life experiences. It also inspired me to sign up for a MoDOT mentor," said attendee Tanya Fibbs.

The conference also included individual table topic discussions. It gave the women a chance to talk amongst themselves and share opinions and ideas.

Broeker shared words of encouragement with the women.

"Never let anyone tell you that because you are a woman, there is a job you cannot aspire to. Figure out what you want and work to make it happen," concluded Broeker.

The district's leadership team plan to have the women's conference again in 2016.

The panelists included:

Micki Knudsen – human resources director
Bethery Williams – senior construction inspector
Stacey Smith – senior highway designer
Nicole Kreisel – senior right of way specialist
Kate Marshall – construction inspector
Jan Binger – maintenance supervisor
Teri Feller – maintenance supervisor

"As females, we can often tend to take on more than possible to manage. It's important to learn how to balance your work commitments with obligations outside of work. This is the reason that I make sure that I have people in my life who also strengthen me," shared panelist Bethery Williams.

Becky Allmeroth, state maintenance engineer, and Jeanne Olubogun, district traffic engineer moderated this event.

"I truly enjoyed this conference because it was genuine and a lot of the topics hit very close to home for me. I

Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge Project Wins Two Awards

by Andrew Gates

Missouri and Illinois' joint effort to connect St. Louis city and St. Clair County was recently recognized for its contributions to the St. Louis skyline.



In addition, the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge project received accolades for its ribbon cutting event.

The St. Louis Post Dispatch selected the project as the critic's choice for the best new addition to St. Louis for 2015. The paper announced the selection during their annual "Go! Best of St. Louis" edition in late May.

In addition, the National Association of Government Communicators selected the ribbon cutting for the Stan Musial Veterans memorial Bridge for a Special Event Award of Excellence in June.

"We are very proud of the impact that the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge project has had on the greater St. Louis area. We knew through the design of the bridge that it would make a great impact on the skyline of the city and on the flow of traffic around St. Louis. In addition, we knew that the region would want to celebrate the completion of this major project in style. We made every effort to celebrate memorably, but inexpensively," said Randy Hitt, project director.



For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Southwest District at Work



HERE'S THE PLAN (upper left) – Transportation Project Manager Linda Bokel explains a feature of the widening of U.S. Route 65 south of Springfield at a recent public meeting. (Photo/David Mitchell)



PAPERWORK (upper right) – District Bridge Engineer Dave O'Connor reviews a form used to record his inspection of one of many culverts in Hickory County. (Photo/David Mitchell)

TRUCK HEROES – Springfield Maintenance Crew Leader Chris Cox (wearing blue shirt and ball cap) shows some children a MoDOT snow plow during the Truck Heroes event at a local library branch June 13. (Photo/Jennifer Williams)



Southwest District Observes Employee Appreciation Week

The Southwest District observed Employee Appreciation Week June 8-12 with a number of activities and events for employees and families.

Activities included a night out at a Springfield Cardinals minor league baseball game, long-term safety awards recognition for employees, a paper boat race and Take a Child to Work event that attracted more than 100 children and grandchildren of district employees.

Below are photos from some of the week's activities.



Springfield Senior Design Technician Aron Raney (center) threw out the first pitch at the Springfield Cardinals minor league baseball game on June 5.



One of the activities children took part in was a bridge building exercise lead by SW Construction staff.

Raney is joined by team mascot, Louie and pitcher Kurt Heyer. The event was organized by the Southwest Chapter of TEAM.



MoDOT's Non-Motorized Traffic Engineer Ron Effland (left) joins children at the 'Bike Road-ee' bicycle safety course during Take a Child to Work event June 11.



Buckle Bear (center) was on hand to pose for pictures with employees and their children.



More than 100 children and grandchildren took part in Take a Child to Work, seeing where their MoDOT employee works and to learn more about what they do.



Springfield Senior Design Technician Josh Dugan (left), District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell (center) and District Utilities Engineer Mike Hodges celebrate winning the paper boat race. Their boat floated for over 11 and one-half minutes, and carried over 32 oz of weight!



Tired from helping at the Bike Road-ee, Assistant District Engineer Laurel McKean (left) and Intermediate Safety Officer Doug Foley enjoy lunch (provided by the SW Chapter of TEAM) at the Take a Child to Work event.



Buckle Bear takes a turn climbing into one of the MoDOT maintenance trucks on display at the Take a Child to Work event.



Employees across the district were honored with long-term safety awards, and treated to lunch. This get together was at the Joplin Regional Office June 9.



Children learned about some of the tools and equipment MoDOT employees use on the job. Above, they are checking out surveying equipment.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Law Enforcement Grants Available to Improve Road Safety in Southeast Missouri

Deadline: June 26

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety (SCRS) is currently accepting Law Enforcement Grant applications for 2016 contract year. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is a partnership of safety advocates including law enforcement agencies, health care providers, state and federal government agencies, planning organizations and advocacy groups that work to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes in Missouri. The SCRS covers 25 counties in Southeast Missouri.

Law enforcement grants can be used to help cover the cost of overtime and equipment for checkpoints, saturation patrols and law enforcement. Awarded agencies may be requested to attend and assist no more than two Coalition sponsored safety events during the year. Applications will be accepted through Friday, June 26.

Grants are carefully reviewed and awarded based on greatest need, and the proposed impact of the request on reducing fatalities and injuries. Verification of a departmental seat belt policy and agency involvement with the Coalition will be considered.

Funding reimbursements will be available to awarded agencies beginning in August.

Applications are available at savemolives.com/regions-connect/southeast under the "Resources" tab or by request. For more information please contact:

Craig Compas - Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Regional Coordinator

- Phone: 573-472-5310 e-mail: Craig.Compas@modot.mo.gov

Sandy Taurone - Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Regional Contact

- Phone: 573-472-5388 e-mail: Sandra.Taurone@modot.mo.gov
- MoDOT, Southeast Region, P.O. Box 160, Sikeston, MO 63801 Fax: 573-472-5265

Lt. John R. Davis - Chairman for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety

- Phone: 573-335-6621 x1095 e-mail: JDavis@cityofcapegirardeau.org
- Cape Girardeau Police Department, 40 S. Sprigg St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Update on Campbell Bridge in Dunklin County



ARRIVE ALIVE

SOUTHEAST REGION
savemolives.com

2016 Application for Law Enforcement Funding

Agency: _____ Contact: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Activity

Overtime Enforcement

Proposed Date(s)	Overtime Hours	Rate of Overtime Pay	Total
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:			\$ 0.00

Equipment

Description	Quantity	Total
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED:		\$ 0.00

Click the image above to access the application.

Kudos to Willow Springs Maintenance Crew

Dear Lonnie, Jesse and MoDOT Crew,

Thank you so much for sending your MoDOT crew out to build up the shoulder for my new mailbox. Your crew did a great job! My box is now set back about 3 feet from the blacktop. Hopefully, this will protect my box from being hit again.

MoDOT has gone far beyond my expectations of what they would do for any individual. You are greatly appreciated!

A Very Happy Lady,
Imogene Cornman
Mountain View



The piling for the new Route 62/53 bridge at Campbell is finished. The contractor is currently excavating for the MSE wall that will support the fills at the bridge ends.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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